

Obituary.

THE HON. DAVID ELLIOTT WILKIE, M.D. ED., AND
L.R.C.S. ED.

DR. WILKIE was a native of Haddington, in Scotland, where his early education was obtained. He afterwards studied in Edinburgh for the medical profession, and graduated at the University of that city. Afterwards he went to Paris, for the purpose of completing his medical studies, and in 1838 he came to Australia, selecting Adelaide as his first place of residence, and coming on to Melbourne in the succeeding year. At that time the medical profession in this colony consisted of very few members, but Dr. Wilkie, after he had been here some time, induced the others to join him in commencing a medical society, which was called the Port Phillip Medical Association. In 1852 a second society—the Medico-Chirurgical Society—was formed, and in 1855 these two bodies became the present Medical Society of Victoria, of which, in 1858, Dr. Wilkie became President. In that society he took a warm interest, and frequently read papers at its meetings. He was also a regular contributor to the *Australian Medical Journal*, which in 1856 he helped to found, and which for awhile he edited. He was one of the original members of the Philosophical Society, out of which finally grew the present Royal Society, and was first its treasurer and afterwards (in 1857) its vice-president. He contributed to its Transactions frequent papers; and although some of his conclusions, especially that referring to the Yan Yean Reservoir, were curiously unconfirmed, there was no denying the great industry and care with which his essays were prepared. Dr. Wilkie was one of the first physicians to the Melbourne Hospital, a connection which, after being for some time broken, he afterwards renewed, and to the duties of which office he applied himself with a conscientious regard for their fulfilment. After several unsuccessful attempts, he in 1858 became a member of the Legislative Council of this colony for the North-western

Province. He retained his seat for ten years, during which time he became a member of a Government and Chairman of Committees; but he never showed any special liking for political life, his heart being in the study and practice of his profession, in which he deservedly held a conspicuous place, and in which he won considerable success, both generally and as a specialist, the direction of this latter being gynecology.

For several years before his visit to Europe, whither he went in November last, Dr. Wilkie had retired from very active practice, but his scientific interest in medicine never waned. His death took place in Paris on the 2nd of April of this year, at the age of seventy. The event was unexpected, as he was in very fair health when he left Melbourne.

EDWARD BARKER, M.D. MELB., F.R.C.S. ENG.

DR. BARKER was an old colonist, having arrived in Victoria in 1840, when only twenty-four years of age. He was a native of the South of England, and his medical education was received at University College, London, where he was a pupil of the illustrious Liston, and to whose example and precepts he attributed much of the interest he always took in operative and conservative surgery. His first experience here, however, was not in connection with his professional pursuits, for on his arrival he at once took up land in the north-west, where he entered upon pastoral pursuits with much energy and very profitable results. Nine years later he experienced a desire to resume the practice of the profession to which he had been trained, and although he continued a commercial connection with his squatting undertakings, he settled down in Melbourne to the regular work of medicine. In 1851 he obtained his first official position, being elected in that year honorary surgeon of the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum, then only just started. In 1852 he was chosen to a like position on the staff of the Melbourne Hospital, at that time a very small institution in comparison with its present bulk and importance. He held this appointment continuously for twenty-four years, during which period he deservedly acquired the reputation of a skilful and scientific surgeon. He was one of the founders of the Royal Society of Victoria, and also of the Medical Society, both of which grew out of the fusion of competing, but not antagonistic, associations. With the governing bodies of both societies he maintained a long connection, and of the Medical Society he was President in 1859. He assisted in starting the *Australian Medical Journal*, which has been for more than thirty

years the organ of the Medical Society, and he contributed papers of a practically valuable kind both to this publication and to the earlier Transactions of the Royal Society. In 1864 he was appointed lecturer on surgery in the then recently established Medical School of the University, having during the previous year taken the degree of Doctor of Medicine. About the same time he was appointed by the Government one of the official visitors of Lunatic Asylums, and the opportunity the duties of this office afforded him of studying mental diseases caused him to become an authority in that branch of medicine. Indeed, as a good "all-round" man in the medical profession, he could not well be distanced, and his success in practice was commensurate with his ability. He was a diligent reader of medical books, and he had collected together a very valuable library of both standard authors and monograph writers. As a consulting surgeon, therefore, he held a leading position. Like many other old colonists, however, Dr. Barker did not die rich, although he was at one time regarded as one of the very successful of the early settlers in this part of the world. Perhaps he had not the special faculty of thrift, which is necessary to the accumulation of wealth; and it is certain that, in the days of his prosperity, he was as open-handed as he was warm-hearted.

He was married in 1845 to Miss Scott, who came of an old Midlothian family, and his domestic life was known to be a happy one. He had a numerous family, and two of his sons chose also the medical profession; but they both died before him, and at his death only a son and daughter survived him.

Among the many good qualities of Dr. Barker the interest he always took in the Royal Society of Victoria will be remembered not the least when his name shall have been only an historical memory. He died on the 30th of June, 1885.

JONATHAN BINNS WERE, C.M.G., J.P., &c.

MR. J. B. WERE, the third son of Nicholas Were, Esq., a landed proprietor in Somersetshire, was born at Wellington, in that county, on the 25th April, 1809. As a youth he entered the employ of a leading commercial house in the seaport town of Plymouth, with whom he continued for some years; but being possessed of an enterprising spirit, and having the command of some capital, he eventually determined to visit the colonies, in the hope that he would there find a freer scope for the use of both the one and the other.

Accordingly, upon the 25th July, 1839, he embarked for the new settlement of Port Phillip, with his wife and two young children, in a ship freighted by himself with goods suitable to the enterprise. He landed in Australia on the 15th November following, and he was, from the time of his arrival in Melbourne to the date of his death, a leading figure in its commercial world.

He received his magistrate's commission in 1840. He was one of the earliest presidents of the Chamber of Commerce. From 1841 to 1851 he was a leader in the agitation which resulted in the separation of the district of Port Phillip from the colony of New South Wales. He was on the committee of the Melbourne Hospital as far back as 1841. In 1854 he joined the Philosophical Society of Victoria, an institution which, with another, eventually merged into the Royal Society. He became a member of the council of the latter body shortly after it was established, and subsequently he was elected a life member, in recognition of the valuable services which he had rendered to it. Although of late years he had ceased to take any active part in our proceedings, he ever expressed himself as heartily interested in our work, and as well pleased to hear of our progress.

The deceased gentleman was also a member of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Copenhagen.

Mr. Were represented Brighton in the Legislative Assembly in the year 1856, but he retired for good from politics in the following year.

He was an ex-director of the Union Bank, and was consul for no less than six different foreign powers.

He was a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George of Great Britain, a Knight Commander of the Danish Order of the Danneboog, and a Knight of the Swedish Order of Wasa.

One of the founders of the colony of Victoria, Mr. Were's long colonial career was marked conspicuously by zeal in promoting the interests of his adopted country, by energy and integrity in the management of his business, and by charity and hospitality in his private life.

He died at his residence, "Wellington," Brighton, of a complication of disorders, on the 6th December, 1885, in the seventy-seventh year of his age, leaving behind him a widow—his second wife—four sons, and four daughters.